MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is a difficult question to answer because wages are given in kind as well as in coins and will depend upon the particular locality and upon the nature of the work.

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the persuasive power of the local Committees.

Shortage of small coins.

8. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, they have made to meet the present shortage of small coins in the State?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Arrangements have been made for getting down copper blanks, manufactured at Bombay. Meanwhile with a view to relieve the situation to the extent possible, local manufacture of copper blanks and minting of coins have also been undertaken and the coins newly minted are being issued from 25-5-1118. A supply of Rs. 2 1/2 lakhs worth of fanams was obtained from the Bombay Mint in December 1942. Steps are also being taken to obtain a further supply of half rupees and fanams.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know what is the value of coins minted?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: About Rs. 2,000 worth.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether any coins are being sent to the northern parts of Travancore.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: They will be sent shortly.

Scarcity of copper coins.

9. *MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether hardship is experienced by the ordinary people for want of copper and other coins of smaller denominations; and

(*b*) whether any action has been taken on the same?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: (*a*) Government are aware that some inconvenience is being experienced for want of small coins.

(*b*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the Press *Communique, dated 11-1-1943/27-5-1118, a copy of which is placed on the table.

Scarcity of small coins.

10. *MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the transactions of the people of the State are considerably handicapped on account of the scarcity of small coins;

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps to remove this hardship; and

(*c*) the price of silver and copper per tola now?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: (*a*) & (*b*) The honourable member is referred to the answer furnished to Interpellation No. 9.

(*c*) The latest price of silver and copper is about Re. 1 and pies. 4 respectively per tola at the retail rate.

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*Vide Appendix at page 31.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether there are meetings of the Committee for the preparation of the agenda of the meeting?

MR. E. G. SALTER: That does not arise.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether Travelling Allowance is given to the members when they attend the meeting for the preparation of the agenda?

MR. E. G. SALTER: No, Sir.

Appendix.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 9.**

COMMUNIQUE.

Government have, for some time past, been noticing an abnormal tendency on the part of the public for the absorption of the small coins of the State. This is evident from the following figures of absorption during the three years 1113, 1115 and 1117 :—

	Silver coins to the face value of	*Copper coins to the face value of*
	Rs.	Rs.
1113 ...	75,099	4,731
1115 ...	4,76,115	20,157
1117 ...	12,95,815	3,49,542

Though the Government are fully alive to the fact that there is bound to be a reasonable increase in small coin requirements due to the increased economic activity at present, it cannot be to such an abnormal extent as evidenced by the above figures. Such abnormal absorption naturally leads to the irresistible inference of the hoarding of these small coins, thereby tending to prevent their free circulation. It also discloses to a certain extent a desire for the exploitation of the present situation by certain individuals with a view to profiteering. As such hoarding of small coins is likely to paralyse business of all kinds, Government wish to invite the co-operation of the public so as to prevent the accumulation of such coins in a few hands. Government alone may not be completely able to help the free circulation of coins, so very essential for the economic prosperity of the people and are doing their best to supply small coins to a large extent. Out of Rs. 55 lakhs worth of small coins issued till now, nearly Rs. 12 lakhs of coins were minted and issued in 1117 alone. Arrangements have been made to mint and issue as much coins as possible during this year. Local manufacture of copper blanks and minting has also recently been started and the new coins are being issued from 25th Dhanu 1118. Government look to the public and the Press to do all that is necessary and possible to prevent the hoarding of the coins. Government also wish to draw the attention of all concerned to the fact that under Rule 90 of the Defence of Travancore Rules, the acquiring of coins in excess of minimum personal or business requirements and dealings in small coin at other than the face value is illegal and punishable.

Huzur Cutcherry,
Trivandrum, 11th January 1943.

A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR,
Financial Secretary to Government.

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